

XX
Mercurius Britannicus,

OR

THE ENGLISH
INTELLIGENCER.

A

TRAGIC-COMEDY
AT PARIS.

Acted with great Applause.



Reprinted with sundry Additions;



Printed in the year 1641.



The Scene Smyrna.

The Persons.

1. *Euthymius*
 2. *Theocritus*
 3. *Hervasilus*
 4. *Democritus*
 5. *Egon*
 6. *Althea*
 7. *Claudius*
 8. *Cratippus*
 9. *Coriscus*
 10. *Vegenus*, his ghost feebly appearing.
 11. *Trivius*
 12. *Curvus Acilius*
 13. *Joachinus* his ghost dreadfully appearing.
 14. *Mortensius*, appearing amiably.
 15. *Antrivius*, appearing friendly.
 16. *Damocles*
 17. *Gliciscus Horologus*
 18. *Chrysomiris*
 19. *Brachidius*
 20. *Primianus*
 21. *Cambusius*
 22. *Musilinus*
 23. *Perdicus*
 24. *Enchirius*, Clerk of the Court.
 25. *Rodrigo*, Porter.
 26. *Arietus*
 27. *Prigilla*
- } Two familiar friends.
- } Two Philosophers.
- } Rusticks.
- } Penall Judges.
- } A Committee.
- } Citizens of Smyrna.
- Chor.* Of vulgar people.
- Chor.* Of Parliament men.

The Censure of the IVDGES:

OR THE COURT CURE.

Act. the first.

Euthymius, Theocritus.

Euthym. MY good friend *Theocritus*, whither away so speedily?
Theoc. Know you not what is this day done in that excellent schoole of vertue and literature, that most flourishing and just Consistory of Peeres and Commons?

Euth. Private employments have made mee a meere stranger to publicke affaires. Pray, what is it?

Theoc. Know, my *Euthymius*, that this day the Iudges must undergoe Iudgement, those Conscript Fathers, whose purple we once adored, are now sicke of a *Judiciall Fever*, by reason of their corrupt sentence given; to the grievance of the Subject, and favour of their Prince.

Euth. Alas! In what a state are wee, when Iudges must render an account of their actions upon earth before Iudges?

Theoc. Beleeve me, *Euthymius*, they must; nor will they escape the gallows, if they give not very good satisfaction to that Honourable and grave assembly: nor will they easily so doe: For it is generally said, that they were the very fountaine of all the teares and tumults of this languishing Island.

Euthym. Let them all dye, if they have abused the seat of Iudgement; it is much better that *one* perish then an *untrie*: a luxurious branch, then a fruitfull vine, some kinde of mercie is cruelty: by whose remissione, or burden rather, every diseased Common-wealth is afflicted: This have I alwayes said, and this renowned Island hath found it too true by experience: to spare the evill is an indammagement to the good. But what are these?

Enter Heraclitus and Democritus.

Theoc. If I should directly expresse their conditions, I should shew you divers gestures arising from the selfe-same affection. They are two Philosophers that scere and weep at the passages of the world.

Mercurius Britannicus,

world. He, *Heracitus*, plaies the part of a compassionate man, hee is suffus'd with teares, and no sooner sees then sighes at the vanities of men. But the other, *Democritus*, derides the age, and scoffeth mens generall folly, setti^{ng} up this Motto over his doore :

Adiservum me video, & rideo,

Infallicem te video, nec invideo.

I see my owne misery and laugh at it : I see thy misery and envie it not. But many there are who doe outwardly rejoyce, but inwardly sigh : they laugh and carroll with their mouthes, but lament and condole with their hearts. This you may soon perceive by their interchange of discourse.

Her. My good *Democritus*, what is the reason that thou laughest ?

Dem. Because thou weepest : for what canst thou finde in this spacious Theater of the world, which is worthy the smallest teare ? where servants are made Lords, Lords servants : the Masters head is cut off, the servant riseth up, and climbs into his place : wives bewaile the funerall of their husbands, counterfeit teares, and offer to leap into their graves ; and yet before one worme hath entred into the winding-sheet, or before the flowers are withered, wherewith the Coarse is garnished, they entertaine new affections, and kinde new nuptiall Tapers : Hah, hah, hah.

Herac. These things draw teares from my eyes : But what besides, *Democritus* ?

Democ. What besides doest thou aske ? Get thee *Diogenes* Lanthorne, and thou shalt every where finde the spectacles of derision. This man is honoured in the sight of his Prince, enjoyeth his delights, stretcheth upon beds of Ivory, and is crusht with honours, as with a burthen ; hee seekes nothing but he acquires it ; hee sues for nothing, but he obtaines it ; all men that see his estate admire him, and esteeme him the happiest man upon the earth : in the meane while one small cloud obscureth all these false beames in a day, yea in a minute of an houre, his Prince leaveth him, his glory departeth like a dreame ; and his *Atlas*, who carried such heaps, such mountaines of honor upon his shoulders, hath his *exit* with reproach : Hah, hah, hah. Yet no sooner hath this *Hero* suffered an irrevocable fate, but he is wisht alive againe by them, who in his life and glory prosecuted him with extreamest violence : they hate him alive, lament him dead, and with pious tears desire his restitution ; but great mens heads are sooner taken off, then set on againe. In these times it is more security to be a foole then a wise man ; for a wise mans head is a subject for the axe, a foole keeps his upon his shoulders : will you heare more ?

Herac.

Herac. Proceed, deare *Democritus*; these conceits are not more pleasant to thee, then my teares are to me.

Democ. Weepe childe, weepe; and that thou mayest seeme the more idle in it, see how parents live penuriously that they may make their sonnies prodigall the sooner; yet how they make themselves debtors to Nature, that they may riot the more licentious: walke on into this most stately Citie, looke about thee, thou shalt see windowes opened, and painted faces looking out, inviting thee with their lookes. Thou shalt finde all things sutable in *Troynovant*; The dainty Dames will untie thy purse strings with a buss: out goes the husband, in comes the friend: Hah, hah, hah. Thou shalt finde some that resigne their Offices, lest they should lose them: others leaving their nests, that they and their young may not perish: others that abounded, through rapine miserably exhausted; others adorned with others feathers, that have cast their owne. Here thou shalt see Coblers and Hucksters, that arise out of old Shoes and Panniers, beating the Pulpit, and broaching new doctrines, as if they were *Regii Professores*, and held by the Rabble to bee most profound Divinity; yea, I cannot wash my hands, but mee thinkes I see the soapy effigies of *Brunfeld* in the Bason: nor can I goe downe into a Cellar, but I finde the lively statue of Master *Abel*; yea, I cannot unty my shooe, but I call to minde that patent for Leather, and deride it: For men now truly seeme turned into trees, bringing forth spacious branches. but fruits of vanity. In a word, all the world is full of fooles, and ridiculous in the eyes of *Democritus*.

Herac. It is a vile disposition to joy in the discommodities of others.

Democ. True; but hence it is that I laugh so much, because all things are cumbred with their owne discommodity.

Herac. In the meane while, they become noxious unto them.

Democ. And justly, my *Heracitus*: for who, if hee were wise, would not forsake a house of clay, to come unto an heavenly Dominion? But these mad men place their *Elysium* upon earth, little regarding the future, that they may enjoy the present. They demolish, build up, they provide cloathes for moathes, and edifices for the winde. They no sooner perceive the hooke of Honour, then they greedily swallow it; that stickes in their throats, and they are worthily taken. Nor doe these things rage onely in greener mindes: for although (as sayes that *Sicilian*) *It is a prodigie for a*

young man to bee old, ridiculous for an old man to bee young; yet you may see the hoary Elders of this land, that have a foot in the grave, and by their age should have wisdom, or at the least authority and reverence, plunged into most heynous crimes, so that it may truly be said of them, they grow as old in vices as in yeares.

Herac. You speak strangely.

Democ. But very truly of these old dogges. The Wolfe will sooner change his haire then his heart: the wooll will not easily lose its first colour, nor the vessell its first savour.

Herac. But my hope is, that you will finde none in this whole Island so wickedly and wretchedly doting, as to preferre worldly wealth before *Elysian* happinesse.

Democ. Goe on and proceed, my doleful *Heracitus*, in your madnesse, are there not many I pray of that *Burbon* opinion, that would rather lose their part in Paradise then in *Paris*? The Iudges can witness this, those venerable and conscript Fathers, who are this very day in tryall for their lives.

Herac. Alas! The Iudges.

Democ. I, the Iudges, Therefore let us both goe thither: for wee shall there heare many things proportionable to thy teares, and convenient for my laughter.

Herac. I will goe very willingly; where, if I heare *Iudgement* turned into *Wormwood*, I shall with my teares lament those unhappy Fathers; yea, I shall transforme my selfe wholly into a *Niobe*.

Democ. Goe on foole, goe; hah, hah, hah. The whole world is diseased, as many Monopolies as Inhabitants; Hah, hah, hah.

Exeunt.

Theoc. Let us follow them *Euthymius*: There is roome for good store of company.

Euthym. I feare *Theocrisus*, that wee shall not bee admitted; because we are no members of that honourable Assembly.

Theoc. Let not that trouble you: there is none that hath good lookes and good cloathes, but he shall have entrance I warrant you. But who are these?

Enter Egon and Althaa.

Euthym. They seeme to bee of the Countrey by their simple discourse. Let us listen to them: for I suspect but little cunning in their coats, they will talke much about matters of State, and their rudenesse will procure us good sport.

Egon. Newes *Althaa*, I have a whole dicker of newes for thee.

Alth. What is that my small friend?

Egon.

or the English Intelligencer.

Egon. I will tell thee a secret, my hony : wee shall have a *Trienniall* Parliament every yeare.

Alth. What is that *Trienniall* ? Doth it belong to the keeping of sheep or goats, stopping of gaps, or greasing of sheep, tell mee pray ?

Egon. Let that suffice, love, that wee shall have this good *Trienniall*. As for my part, I must needs confesse, I know not whether *Trienniall* bee man or woman. But this I know, that for the report of it in the Countrey wee past all the night in making bonfires, and playing the good fellows.

Alth. In truch this word doth much trouble mee, my husband, once an Academian, now an *Heardsmā*, promised to give mee due benevolence every *Trienniall*, and I did most kindly thanke him, yet I did not see how he could performe it once in three yeares.

Egon. Alacke ! he is old, what canst thou expect from him; goe to now, let us draw neere to the gate of the Consistory, his day they sit of many and weighty matters concerning the Iudges.

Alth. What are they to be hang'd ?

Egon. I know not that, yet they are in a pittifull case, as the old proverb goes, Their buttockes make buttons.

Alth. Why should we goe thither ? those matters concerne not us, nor are our capacities futable for them.

Egon. How ever, let us goe; if wee can here nothing, invent something against we goe downe into the Countrey, that all that heare us, may be filled with amazement.

Exeunt Rustici.

Theo. We doe as much thirst to heare as they, and seeing all sorts flock thither, that we may make more haste, let us shur in with them; as we did all share in the Iudges wrongs, so let us have a share in their disgrace.

Enthym. Goe along : I am easily intreated to make holy-day, to heare this dayes triall.

Exeunt.

The second Act.

The doore being opened, the Curtaine drawne, Enchirius, Clarke of the Court, brings out the Bookes, calleth the Iudges by name, readeth their indictments; after which, Primiachius, Cambrensis, and Marilius, by turnes object against them; to whom the Iudges in like manner make their answer.

Enter

Enter the Ghost of Coriolanus, &c.

VV Ho once did flourish and did beare the Bell
In these Assemblies, as your selves can tell;
Whose death untimely was, lo yet doth pray,
That Iustice in your Courts may still beare sway:
Conferre pure justice candid soules to all,
Temper your votes with honey more then gall.
Better those Iudges are that oft doe spare,
Then those that anger doe possesse and warre.
Not oyle alone in healing wound is us'd,
But to green wounds much Balsome is infus'd;
Long live the King; let Consuls glory float,
Britaine triumph, this Coriolanus vote.
Behold him risen from his ghostly Cell
Him, whom the boysterous Commons could not quell.
Nor whetted axe, nor Scaffold, nor black rod,
Nor yet grim death, hee's now a demy-god
Happier much more so wretched was his doome
Amongst the Saints in heaven now hath roome.
Earths pleasures, treasures all farewell, your frowne
I scorne, death is a gaine, my grave a Crowne.

Chorus Senatoria.

Chor. These are dire passages to our houses, yet to be revered
for their pious admonitions, wee are to hold them with an unani-
mous voyce to defend with a generall vote, to bee wag'd with one
hand, to bee governed with one heart, yet they are like to returne for
want of admittance a gaine to their ghost.

Officers proceed.

Ench. Doe you heare *Roderigo*? bring forth the prisoners.

Rod. Which must first come forth?

Primac. Let them bee brought forth in the same order as they did
argue. Ignorance of order disturbs the forme of justice: for Ring-
leaders in sin, the greater sinners: wee will begin first with the first,
from the puny Iudge to the Lord chiefe Iustice, as they sinned sever-
ly, so let them answer severally, and they shall finde us more diligent
and honest in their cause, then they were in our case of Ship-money.

Enchrys.

Euchrys, Bring *Claudius* to the Barre : Hold up thy hand, *Claudius*, thou art indicted by the name of *Claudius*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary*, 1637. against the peace of the Common-wealth, the liberty of the Subject, and the testimony of thine owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickeely, deliver up thy opinion in the case of Ship-money, to be paid to the Lord the King, forasmuch as there was then no urgen occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity. What sayest thou *Claudius* ? art thou guilty of the fact thou standest indicted of, or not guilty ?

Claud. I doe confesse, that I did halt in the performance and execution of my Office ; yet all know, that I spake little in the case : and as I was more partiall in defending the errour ; so my penalty ought to be the lesser.

Cambr. This is a poore defence of your cause, if thou hadst argued longer, yea if thou hadst been chiefe of the Purple Benchers, it is likely thou wouldst have been more plentifull and richer in sin, as your faults were the same ; you sinned about shippes, so your punishment shall be the same, you shall have a Bear, *Charons* Boat, Hell for your hire.

Democ. How pleasantly doth this haulter hault in his office, it was like to prove a lame businesse when they set the haulter before. Doe you heare *Charon* ? hire more servants, a great burthen is layd upon thee, thou hast a daily taske set thee, the turbulent troops of Iudges rush upon thee : Hah, hah, hah.

Clerk. Stand aside, *Claudius* : O *Roderigo* ! send for *Cratippus* to the Barre. Hold up thy hand *Cratippus*, thou art indicted by the name of *Cratippus*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary*, 1637. against the peace of the Common-wealth, the liberty of the Subject. and the testimony of thy owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickedly, deliver up thy opinion in the case of Ship-money, to be paid to the Lord the King ; for as much as there was then no urgen occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity. What sayest thou *Cratippus* ? Art thou guilty of the fact thou standest indicted of, or not guilty ?

Democ. Hee hath either an Oxe in his mouth, or a Gotlet in his guts, that prepuitates his speech.

Manil. O *Cratippus* ! set no bounds to thy silence, bee still, mute, leave off, and blush ; and know, nothing had become thee better,

then silence. But pious bashfulnesse is unusuall to prevaricating transgressours. We are informed, O *Cratippus*, that thou hast been too much wedded to bribery; know therefore, thou that didst breathe after yellow maulter, shalt lose thy breath with an hempton halter: thou didst extenuate thy veines, to extend thy gaines, thou knewest all trickes and devices of bribery, therefore all the gates of mercie are barracado'd up against thee: Who hast thou in all this conflux and best instructed Ring of justice, that can rise up in thy defence, that thou ever favour'dst justice in any one particular? here is but one, or none: thou hadst one, but farre unlike thee, to wit, *Hortensius*, a brother of thine, that sate neere thee on the same Bench, but farre distant in conditions; for his opinion in the matter of Ship-moneyes, did singularly sympathize with crooked *Acilius*, they made a pish at all the writs of ease, and the thundrings of that *Runnegado Chrysometres*, they did preferre an odoriferous name farre before all blowne and swelling titles; which good name, whosoever shall neglect, is a tyrant to himselfe. That *Hortensius* therefore, who although he hath exchanged life with death, hath left so memorable a memory to all posterity, that all the famous Statues and Monuments compos'd and erected of durable Marble, Brasse or Ivory, shall sooner drop down into ashes, then his venerable name amongst the *Britaines* be forgotten.

Cratip. I confesse my selfe guilty; onely I beseech your clemencie to mitigate my censure; if not, as we did all saile in one ship, so let us all be ferried over in one boat, into the Iland *Anticyra*, where there is plenty of the hearb *Helleborum*, that purgeth the head of folly and madnesse. I would have enlarged my selfe, but that I have gotten a whinzie in my head, and quinzie in my throat, which prevents me.

Democ. I know not whether it doth stand with reason, to allow them all *Anticyra*, our progenitors esteemed diminutive Cottages as Kingdomes; but these have converted the Kingdome into their private houses, and made their owne houses their screenes.

Herac. O deplorable misery of this miserable wretch!

Democ. They are not worthy of a teare, I doe willingly command them to bee mad; see what a just judgement hath fallen on *Cratippus*: as hee hath alwayes a mercenary tongue to keep silence; so hee hath now lost his eloquence, and faculty of pleading, that hee hath much adoe to crave pardon for his offence: Hah, hah, hah.

Clerk. Call *Corticins* to the Barre: Hold up thy hand, *Corticins*, thou

thou art indicted by the name of *Corticus*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary*, 1637. against the peace of the Common-wealth, the liberty of the Subject, and the testimony of thine owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickedly, deliver up thy opinion in the case of Ship-money, to be paid to the Lord the King, forasmuch as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to disjudeicate of his necessity. What sayest thou *Corticus*? art thou guilty of the fact thou standest indicted of, or not guilty?

Cort. Not guilty.

Clerk. Thou art found guilty, the Lord deliver thee.

Camb. How many things bee laid in thy dith? first, thou hast wit at will, or wilfully witty, but foolishly wise; none more fluent in speaking the Lawes, yea in turning and framing them like a nose of wax, fit for any impression, or like a Gipsies knor, plaid fast and loose; Why didst thou celebrate thy birth day with such solemnity? the fall felicity of thy head and belly, thy ingenuity and gulosity. It is difficult for a learner to swim without bladders, thou beganst to flutter with the Lapwing before thou wast pin-feathered, and to run with thy shell on thy head. In thy circuit, especially in the County of *Lanc.* (when Master *Farrington* was high Sheriffe, a man of an honest report) thou didst exercise thy tyrannicall faculty, thy dominiering carriages made thee to be hated and abhorred of all. Other sinners have baits laid to bring them into action, but pride needs no Promoter to evill, but layes traines to surprize goodnesse. Hee that even now before thy face was endowed with a thousand of vertues and graces, yet his arrogancie over-whelmed the top of his felicity. All other sins hide from God, pride alone resisteth her maker. Oh with what boldnesse, yea, with what insolencie thou didst shew thy selfe an Averter of that hissed downe sentence of Ship-money; as if thou alone hadst got the Monopolies of all wit. Pertinacious sinners deserve more weighty censures, schisme but punished, heresie condemned, yea damned.

Cort. I call God to witnesse, that I will live and die in this opinion. Shall I not stand to the authority of those so pithy and learned Fathers in the Law, wee have read over so many Schedules of particulars, the very fragments of the Law, the Statutes and Annals of every yeares proceeding in law affaires. O that I might but argue it againe! you should see this my opinion stand upon firme props and pillars.

Mercurius Britannicus,

Camb. Stand by, thy place is changed for disgrace, thy degree for a tree, thy robe for a rope.

Democ. What hath his eloquence profited? hee must now take a turne at *Tyburn*, for not turning from his corrupted opinion, hee that wish'd so well to the Seas, must not bee drown'd, but hang'd, for his not wavering, hath lost the benefit of waves, the road to *Antycira*. Whil'st hee doth defend the puppies, must dy a dogges death.

Clerk. Taylor, where is *Vigecius*?

Roder. We have not any called by that name.

Prima. Wee had such an one, who was easily drawne to the opinion of his brother *Corticeus*; yet never did adhere to him in any other thing, save onely in the plea of Ship-money, ever before, when hee should argue, he fained himselfe sicke, and when hee did enter the list (he most fortunately lost his arguments in the street) no man did ever offend with more brevity, and in this one thing gave a taste of his wisdom, in that he died to prevent his censure. Wee must truly say of him, he did once flourish, he descended from an ancient family, commendable in this one thing, hee studied rather to retaine his patrimony, then for gaine.

The ghost of Vigetius appears pale and wan, and vaniseth.

Democ. How many prove themselves wiser by dying then living? Hah, hah, hah.

Democ. Let him returne in peace to *Ghostland*. Call *Trivius* to the Barre; Hold up thy hand *Trivius*, thou art indicted by the name of *Trivius*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary*, 1637. against the peace of the Common-wealth, the liberty of the subject, and the testimony of thy owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickedly, deliver up thy opinion in the case of Ship-money to bee paid to the Lord the King; for as much as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to adjudicate of his necessity. What sayest thou *Trivius*? art thou guilty of the fact thou standst indicted of, or not guilty?

Manil. Why art thou silent? wilt thou be prest?

Democ. Why not? I am sure that hee hath prest many wealthy widowes: Hah, hah, hah.

Triv. I cannot for the present, tell how to defend my selfe.

Manil. Nor art thou like hereafter; bee silent and heare, This is hee whose wealth was more grave and weighty then his wit,
hee

hee had rather have a mine of gold, then a golden minde. Let him stand forth, that he may shew himselfe futable to his name. Although we should lesse contend and contest with *Gregorians*, yet wee are resolv'd to delineate and draw forth in lively colours, the portraiture of this Serpentine Monster, and with that brevity, that wee may not incur the brand of tediousnesse from many.

Democ. Let us stand still and behold this *Gorgons* head drawne forth.

Manil. That same *Trivius*, that true triviall trisler, full of grace widowes, and a widow to grace, that hath more faith in his Chest, then wit in his breast, that is rather of a robustuous and sinewous composition, then of an ingenuous and ingenious disposition, an happy and fortunate wooer, that did draw more marrow out of widowes, then out of his slender practice; he speaks much, understands little, pumpes forth an unfavoury Ocean of words, not powdred with a drop of reason.

Triv. O good *Manilins*, thou hast describ'd me to an haire: I confesse my selfe to be an *Ignoramus* in law, and like a blinde man was led by the sleevelesse sleeves of my brethrens opinions; moreover, my ignorance cries out, Spare him, have mercy on him whom God doth pittie, to wit, innocents, whereof I am chiefe.

Manil. Thou hast hammered forth a readier answer to mee, then thou couldst make a defence of thy cause. Ignorance excuseth from the greatnesse of the fact, but not the fact; thou hadst an excellent president set before thee, that same *Antrivius*, but new dead, and resteth in peace, that when he languished on his death-bed, witnesse his pen, would not rest satisfied with their opinions, but thou art not onely an Idiot, but an Idoll worshipper of money; not onely in the lustre, but even in the rust, as thou hast milk'd the widowes, so the Kings Exchequer shall milke thee.

Democ. Fie, fie, the hee goat is to be milk'd. *Ignoramus* is now whipped for his folly, one day robs him of that he was many yeares a getting: the Exchequer at one draught hath swallowed downe all his wives fortunes: Hah, hah, hah.

Heracl. Hee prospers not in Earthly affaires, that neglects Heavenly.

Clerk. Let *Trivius* stand apart, put stronger bolts on the dolts legs, and manacles on his hands, lest his surreptitious goods should blinde the eyes of his keeper, and the Lubber run away.

Prim. As for thy part, O *Curvus Acil.* thou approved weight, thy constancie and integrity as cleare as the Noone Sunne, hath purchas'd

chas'd thee honourable *Encomiums*, a Father of thy country; a Constellation of the *Forum*; a generous plant and planet of Iustice, which hath eterniz'd thee a perpetuall memory to all posterity, and hath set so deep an impression into the hearts of the living, that no age shall o' literate, no time bury in oblivion; thou didst easily triumph over snarling ranchor, and having ruine and posted over all the stages of thy life, hast rais'd up so famous a tombe and statue, Trophies of thy worth, in the breasts of all, to whom no testification, no epitaph can be more pretious; Sacred is the memory of *Cervus Acilius*.

Democ. What a deale of difference between *Trivius* and this *Cervus Acilius*! Hee, as he did well ken the Lawes, so hee did rightly dispense them; but this Irister did neither well understand nor dispense them.

Heraclit. In this carelesse and drowisie age, as sowre grasse and mosse growes on empty wells; so vices by their sloath sprout and grow in them, whence wee see by experience, old men more incurable then youth: finnes are habituall in one, but disposition in the other.

Democ. Yet if they will measure out their houres with an impartiall glasse, the nearer they approach to their graves, the purer and uprighter should they live; but now mens dispositions are so infected, that they most minde the world when they are leaving it, and they never lesse view heaven (if they had lived well) then when they are going thither; perhaps the fault's in crooked old age, that deprives us of our erected lookes, and makes the earth object of our light: and so, as the old proverb goes, *Out of sight out of minde*. Hold my sides, lest I burst not with too much laughter; youth growes decrepit, old age youthfull: Hah, hah, hah.

Clerk. Vnlock *Ioachims*.

Roder. His soule went out of its owne prison before he was delivered two houres.

Cambr. Hee's dead, and is much obliged to death, although hee did seeme to bee an Oracle of Law, by his subtilty, crafty and intricate wreathings of his arguments, and did personate *Diomedes*, rushing this way and that way, doubtfull whether to side with *Hector* or *Achilles*: so hee superficially plaid on both sides, affirming with a lowd voyce, I know whom I will not side with; but which part I should take, I know not: therefore hee was so much more severely to bee punished, because hee did palpably sinne against a knowne truth.

For the English Intelligencer.

The ghost of Toachinus appeeres brushing with an horrid motion, and so vanisbeth.

Democ. The ghost snatched him out of your hand ! this suddaine death proves very opportune and lucky for him ; better to meet death on the bed then *Tiburne*.

Clerk. Let *Hortensius* come forth.

Roder. We had never any charge of him.

Manil. Thou sayest true *Roderigo*, hee was so sincere a Guardian of his actions, that he lived and died untainted ; the memory therefore of so good and worthy a Patron, is to bee deplored with perpetuall Elegies : he deservedly obtained this title ; *An honest Iudge, the poore mans Patron and Protector* : which title is a greater glory then the Empery of the worlds circumference : he surprized envie by vertue, and carried honours to his grave.

The Ghost of Hortensius appeares, and vanisbeth shining with amiable countenance.

Herae. What pious censures are engraven upon the graves of the vertuous !

Democ. Hence these Proverbs or rather Paradoxes rise : Every wicked man a foole, No wicked man happy, No wise man a stranger : for every nation is his native soile ; Fooles onely are banished, they are strangers at home.

Heraclit. Hee said well, hee is a stranger that enjoyeth not himselfe.

Manil. Let him stand apart for an example and sampler.

Cler. Call forth *Antrivius*. —

Rod. He was cal'd forth long since } *Cler.* Where hath he appeared ?

The Ghost of Antrivius appeares, and vanisbeth walking.

Roder. Whether hee did appeale, hee was manumitted out of our hands and shackles long since.

Prim. By what right ? by what authority ?

Rod. A certaine Peere of a froward and impious spirit, demanded and commanded him to be delivered, who staying but a while at the doore, began to sweare and swagger, hee would either come in, or throw the doore off from the hookes ; his lookes so fierce and grim, put me in such a feaverish fright, that my haire stood an end. I durst doe no otherwise but let him in : As soone as hee had received the prisoner, he tooke him by the haire and vanished.

Camb.

Camb. Death is inevitable and irresistible; Oh! had that man lived to those dayes, he would have given such a testimony of his approved testimony in arguing about Ship-money, that he would have escaped Scot-free, and have made an end and finished the controversall case with his ripe and happy life. Let him ship peaceable in the night of his death, that flourished in the light of his life; and the more glorious was his lustre in this life, the lesse cloudy and raging he was in the law.

Democ. We must speake nothing but good of the dead; perhaps had he been lesse diseased in body, he would not have been so sound and solid in minde.

Herae. Thou sayest true, my *Democritus*, sicknesse wounds the body, but salves the soule.

Democ. Are they not then mad that have frantick soules in healthfull bodies?

Clerk. Taylor, bring *Damocles* to the Barre; Hold up thy hand, *Damocles*, thou art indicted by the name of *'Damocles'*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary*, 1637. against the peace of the Commonwealth, the liberty of the Subject, and the testimony of thy owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perditionously, perniciously and wickedly, deliver up thy opinion in the case of Ship-money, to be paid to the Lord the King; for as much as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity, what sayest thou *Damocles*? Art thou guilty of the fact thou standest indicted of, or not guilty.

Dam. I confesse I am not altogether guilty or innocent, if any well affected shall throughly read my Arguments, he shall finde mee much differing from the opinion of my brethren; I did not in plaine termes averre, that such a taxe was due to the King, the more moderate and modest my opinion was, it required so much the milder censure, my opinion was circumscribed with certaine circumstances; yea, they were curt and concise: it behoves you therefore (most approved men) to tender my age, which ought long ere this, to be manumitted from these turmoiles, and now is miserably worne out with age and cares.

Prim. O *Damocles*: this will not serve thy turne; yet thy deplorable condition is not to bee surveyed with dry eyes, when thou wast a pleader at the Barre, thou camest off with great applause, and didst never receive any bribes, and didst so stoutly and eleborately plead thy Clients cause, in case it were just, and supported with the

the props of honesty; yea (as it hath been related to us) thou art miserably poore at home, and mightily in debt abroad; hence we confesse thy poverty to be an evident testimony of thy equity, these may much diminish and mitigate, but not quit thee.

Herac. O pittifull poore Iudge! shall not thy poverty plead thee guiltlesse?

Democ. Hold thy peace, thou simplicious, this fool deserves greater punishment then the rest, since he hath flourished such a proceffe of yeares, without any intermission, seated on the highest Benches, who had so many occasions of gaine, as baits of bribes were hung forth, and yet (like a silly Coxcomby Cooke) would not a little lick his owne fingers: Hah, hah, hah.

Camb. We have made an accurate search through this Lernean lake; now let us move our Iunco to other Benches, and I much fear we shall finde as many Serpents in these dens; but how shall wee purge and cleanse this Augean stable, that there may be no place left hereafter for ignorance and impudency. As for *Glicifens*, I should rather have said *Gliris*, Iudge *Dormant*, you know whom I mean, he that sits for a cypher on the Bench, the barren Baron that hath little wit, and lesse honesty, because he was your tell-clocke (O ye purple Iudges) his punishment shall be to turne Sexton, and bee a Clock-keeper in the Countrey: for his simplicity pleads for temperate punishment.

Democ. How hee prickes up his Asses eares to heare his doome.

Clerk. It pleaseth your honourable Assembly that wee should descend to other barres in the Common-hall.

Prim. Good reason they that loved to sin together, must bee tried together.

Clerk. Doe you heare mee, keeper of the black Rod, bring forth your great Keeper *Chrysometres*.

Custos. Hee is gone, he made an escape, hee slupt aside, hee broke forth.

Manil. What Countrey is he flowne into?

Custos. He is flowne into another Countrey, hee left his neast for feare he should have been apprehended in it: ever since his flight the speech is, that he sings now in France.

Manil. What madnesse posselt him? how lively doth this point at *Chrysometres*? Bad counsel's worst to the adviser.

Custos. Leaving his Consulship, hee followeth the warres, and it is fresh in report, that hee did play the part of a valiant Champion,

in vindicating an aspersiō thrust upon him, and disarmed his adversary. Gave a testimony that hee shared as much of *Mars* in his hand, as *Mercury* in his tongue; the Lawyers Ruffe shares with the Souldiers Buffe.

Camb. How many eminent and excellent parts hath Nature prodigally cast upon him, which if they had been powdred with humility and grace, they had cognomentized him with the stile of *Chrysometres* the Great: Honour, the most pernicious Rock to split ambition, it estrangeth men from friends and associates; Pride, like a mad Dogge, snarles and bites at all, home and abroad; and so it becomes disesteemed of all, with a reciprocall retaliation: let Magistrates chuse Magistrates, and conferre offices on them that hunt not after them. As one once said well, Elect the refuser, reject the pursuer. Hee that refuseth Magistracie, is no dominiering Vsurper: Let *Chrysometres* long roost in transmarine parts before hee bee called home, we have too many such Parots, we have been too indulgent to all such birds; let them take a speedy flight and returne at leasure, lest they should destroy their mother that did brood and hatch them up. To winde up all in a word, let all such be removed. None ever more ungratefull then *Chrysometres*; for none ever more bound to the Prince then hee, and yet hee laid his owne crimes on the Crowne, when a constant and valiant minde would sooner have suffered a thousand deaths, hee would have resisted the threatnings of inexorable death, and laughed her in the face, like that Heroicke spirit that willingly proffered his neck to the dint, rather then father the least aspersiō on his Prince, that had alwayes rendred his welfare, and under whose wings hee flourished. Let *Chrysometres* depart with all his eloquence, hee was the most corrupt of all Iudges, the most wicked of all Keepers, and the most impure and spurious of all Solicitors. In the meane time, that I may not incur the displeasure of those, that desire rather quaint phrase then serious lines in this Tract, I doe not desire to delineate things accurately and Satyrically, but favourably and discreetly, not politely, but duely and rightly.

Democ. O miserable happinesse! O happy misery! This *Chrysometres* in the twinkling of an eye, durst not shew his face, lost his good name, his seat of Iustice, his Fortune, his Nest, his Nation,

Heracl. O yee snowy honours, that dissolve and melt with the least distemper of the minde! Who's that that comes forth with such a strutting garb and posture?

Democ.

Demos. It is hee that was so well thought on of the Commonwealth before hee climb'd the Bench of Magistracie; but no sooner mounted, but lost his former reputation: an honest Lawyer, a wicked Iudge.

Clerk. Call *Brundusius* to the Barre; Hold up thy hand *Brundusius*, thou art indicted by the name of *Brundusius*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary*, 1637. against the peace of the Commonwealth, the liberty of the Subject, and the testimony of thy owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickedly, deliver up thy opinion in the case of Ship-money, to be paid to the Lord the King; for as much as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity, what sayest thou *Brundusius*? Art thou guilty of the fact thou standest indicted of, or not guilty.

Prim. Master Speaker, stay a little, this same *Brundusius* is to bee persecuted above the rest; I dare bee bold to say, that hee deserved the worst of all the Knaves in the whole packe, at the hands of the Commonwealth: for when all expected him their Sovereigne Champion for the distressed Lady Iustice, hee proved her sworne and forsworne enemy, by which act hee hath made a great blot to his Name, and a blurre to his Conscience, he did see and yet stumble with open eyes, hee knew truth, and patroniz'd falshood, let him therefore have death, his due. If hee (as that same *Trivius*) had been an *Ignoramus* in the Lawes, hee then might have made some colourable defence; but to deliver up his verdict in defiance against the direct rule of his owne knowledge. O Monstrous Monster!

Brund. I doe ingenuously confesse, and also call your ingenuous Candor to witnesse, that I, by the sugred whispering of *Chrysometres*, one while flattering, another threatning, did deliver up my fallow and fruitlesse opinion of Ship-money. Of a truth, *Chrysometres* said, (and there is none (as you all best know) had ever a better faculty in the Art of Colloquing and perswading to effect his purpose) if I did not argue for the King, I should be expunged out of his favour, and also be outed of my honourable place by a writ of *Ease*, to my perpetuall shame and disgrace.

Prim. O old doring Covetousnesse! wouldst thou preferre a writ of *Ease* before the ease and quiet of thy minde? What? the neerer thy end, the proner to avarice; yea, one foot in the grave, and thy minde still runne on the world? Oh hadst thou but fore-cast how

Mercurius Britannicus,

little satisfies Nature, and how little of that little old age, thou wouldst have been lesse solicitous for terrestrials, and more inquisitive after celestials; for you that have been the Torch in the Law to prevaricate, ought deeply to bee censured, and having so pure and perfect a looking-glasse of justice before your eyes, to wit, *Curvus Acilius*, a mantired with age; yet of a vigorous minde, and inviolable conscience: you had him, I say, for a president (although your steps were crooked) yet had you followed *Crooke*, you had not turned straight justice into obliquity. You know, you very well know (and therefore a greater judgement hangs over your head), that golden chaine of *Perianders*, never to be obliterated, wee must doe nothing for filthy lucre. Favour prepediates, and trips up the heeles of Iustice: for Iustice is spurned at where affection beares sway. Excessive love and excessive hatred trample Iustice in the dirt. That same *Joachinus*, that lately expired, did not demerit so great punishment, yet he is for ever engaged to the fatall sisters, and is bound to kisse them round, for pre-occupating his arraignment. Although his Arguments intricate and knotty, yet that same *Oedipus* with all his Riddles (if the Destiny had not prevented) had been caught in a *Gregorian* nooze.

Democ. What more preposterous then an old Impostor?

Herac. Alwayes such events, when old men make Earth their Heaven.

Prim. Let us rise for a season, O my select brethren, and suspend our sentence, that wee may inflict a condigne punishment on them all.

Exeunt the Arbitrators of the Consistory.

Enter Ramme, Priscilla, &c. Citizens of Smyrna.

Herac. Whither flow these troops of females?

Democ. You may easily know them by their habits, they are Citizens wives, dainty Duckes, which post hither to heare the fatall and finall sentence of the Iudges.

Herac. Out alacke, can their tender eares heare these things without the losse of many teares?

Democ. Doe you thinke that they are moulded of a softer temper? thou art much deceived, they are of an harder constitution: they with dry cheekes, or at least with dissembling teares, can take leave of their husbands for an East-Indy voyage; yea, they can pry into their husbands graves with a puling lip, but a jocund heart; and before they quench their funerall Torch, kindle new linkes of love.

Herac.

or the English Intelligencer.

Herac. I wonder they should come hither this day above all others.

Democ. Dost thou not know the reason? heare and be still, others are dayes of *Nisiprius*, vulgarly *Iseprizes*, this a day of life and death, women have alwayes loved hanging and drawing in their quarters, better then Iustice.

Herac. They can see little in the Iudges.

Prisc. I will venture in: for if I shall but see Monsieur *Goat* the Courtier in the Hall, I know he will presently open the doore unto me, that have so often opened unto him.

Ram. Pish, pish, my little Mouse, my little Hony, my Primrose, what businesse hast thou in the Court?

Prisc. What businesse hath the Court with us? Hold thy peace, my Tup, be silent my little Horner, he shall be no more my Cozen, if he provide me not some standing in the Court.

Ram. In good sooth, no Courtier shall stand with thee in his proper place.

Prisc. O my little pricke, hee hath, and shall stand with me, if thou displease me.

Ram. Farre, farre be it from thee, O my little Lawrell, that such a brand of infamy should be cast on our stocke, to have a signe in the fore-head.

Prisc. What a piece of matter is it? art thou the first dub'd knight of the forked order?

Ram. I believe not, yet I would not willingly weare my night-cap after the new fashion in the Citie, when I am waking, neither would I willingly sleep upon a pillow that is stuffed with the shavings of hornes.

Prisc. Let not this trouble thee, they may better bee foreseene, then prevented; marriage and cuckoldry come by destiny, hee that is borne to the hornes, must weare them: if then it bee thy fortune, resist not, it is hard for thee to kicke against the forked prick.

Ram. Oh the unbridled lust of a young heifer!

Prisc. Fittest for your Oxes head; doe you grow horne mad?

Ram. Am not I lineally descended from the ancient family of all the Citie, to wit, the Horners.

Prisc. Then I should doe you wrong, if I should bee the cause of your growing out of that kindred: it is very requisite therefore that I should Tuppe, to make you a compleat Horner. The greater family

Mercurius Britannicus,

family the worst for *Venus* sports, the more eminent, the more bent. *Cupid* dwells on Ladies lips, and keeps his arrowes in their quivers. You Monsieur *Tilley*, Monsieur *Tilley*.

Ram. What hast thou with that same *Tilley*? the arrant leacher in the Court.

Prisc. That I may the sooner get in.

Ram. It will hardly be granted in these Sessions, no fit places for women.

Prisc. Why not for women? As if wee were not as capacious as they; yea, I warrant, as deepe as they are lapidable. I will climb aloft, that I may heare and see with more facility.

Ram. What wilt thou heare? What wilt thou see? Whither, O my Cony, doth thy lust carry thee?

Prisc. I much long to see the Iudges: for they say (and I would faine see whether it be true) that they have no more haire on their face, then a Iack-an-apes hath on his taile.

Ram. They are subtil enough without beards; *Barba non facit Philosophum, nec cucullus Monachum*: they are so often trimmed, that they may seeme more grim and terrible.

Prisc. I had rather hunt after smooth-fac'd youth with downy chins, then these beardless Seniors with their frigid whineers, that keepe a bristling with their stubbed bristles. What are those, I pray thee?

Ram. They are the Iudges that thou'st longest to see.

Prisc. Hah, hah, hah: they will make cold bed-fellowes, that have *Decembers* ickles hang all the yeare long in their snowy beards, sure their coldnesse and frozen ware must needs beget whore frosts in their beds. Although women deny'd preaching, yet they might make very good Iudges, and save many a bribe, that they are forc'd to take, to bestow on their finicall Barbarian Barbers: they are bubberaliz'd artificially, wee naturally. O how wee should become the Common-hall; even as well as Pope *Ioane* the See of Rome. Wee would give lusty Lads their Law for nought. I my selfe deserve to bee Lord chiefe Iustice of the Common-plea, wee would soone make the Benches Groaning-chaire: for we would be great with our Clients, we would make them carry double: they should have free acesse to our Closets and Studies: they shall soone have our hands, if they come with their pens in theirs.

Ram. Silence my little Leveret, since thou art here, and get
a stan-

a standing; listen what will become of them.

Prisc. This not the standing that I came for; Let them bee hang'd, it shall never trouble mee Boyes, I can hardly bee perswaded that they are of the Masculine gender. They are a drye stocke, perfidious cattell, enemies to generation, hang them and their sudge-ments.

Ram. Bridle thy tongue, my little Ducke, lest thou bee noted.

Prisc. Their eares are stop'd, and their eyes are blinde with bribes, they can neither heare nor see.

Act the third.

Enter the Arbitrators of the Consistory, the guilty Iudges, Euchtysius Clerk of the Court, and Roderigo the Taylor, &c.

Clerk. O Roderigo, bring forth the Prisoners.

Democ. O what a shivering doth possesse their joynts! Hah, hah, hah.

Manil. Stand forth, stand forth, you most lamentable Iudges: you deny not, but that you are guilty of the Iudgement that you stand indicted of, neither can you produce any thing worth our attention in the defence of your senselesse and miserable cause: You know, you very well know, a Iudge ought not to bee tainted with any crime that hee is to condemne in others: herein, how miserably have you failed? You have been Iudges, and condemned crimes in others, that your selves have been accessory unto. For a Iudge to take bribes, was death. If they have been so severely punished for one fault, and that against but one private man; what plagues then are to bee inflicted on them, which have shamefully abused and guld the whole Common-wealth, by sowing jealousies betweene the King and Subject, Subject and King; by promulgating opinions of innovation, against the apparant testimony of their owne Consciences, troubling with tempestuous stormes, the Halcyon dayes of a peacefull King, and obedient and dutifull Subjects; yea, to your power, converting all things into fire and ashes. If such a combustion (for you carried your selves as fire-brands and incendiaries) deserves not the Gallows, I know not what it can better merit. The lawes were first enacted for the
safeguard

safeguard of a Nation ; but you have made them a contagious pestilence of the Common-wealth. You have personated the part of *Midas* with his Asses eares, you are elected Commissioners in trust between the King and the Subject ; which trust reposed in you, you should not have violated, neither for threats, favour, in-treaties or reward : but you were soone allured, either for hope of gaine, or stricken with a *Carthaginian* cowardizing feare, have strip'd Iustice, and left her stark naked ; yea, our Conscience testifying against you, that you shamefully neglected her ; you being thus surprized, either by bribes, or terrified with feare, have pore-blind your inward eye of your minde, that you have given a manifest prooffe that you are *Midas*s Asses.

All the Iudges. Mercie, have mercy on us, O you worthy and approved Weights.

Democ. Hanging too good for them : see that neck-verse which they put unto others when they were Iudges ; now they are constrain'd to begge that they may have a Psalm of mercy. Lord have mercy on you.

Manil. The same measure that you have measured unto others, shall be repaid to you.

Herac. Good Lord, there will bee no hope at all left for these wretches, if they must have their deservings.

Manil. Pricke up your Asses eares, and attend ; At your leasure and vacation houres, I beleeeve that you have usually read, that the *Germanes* conquered, rather with the good disposition they conceived to bee in *Drusus*, then subdued. For as soone as hee was dead, they stood againe on their owne guard, and began to tax the wilfulnesse and arrogancie of *Varus Quintilius* for cruelty, and did easily obtaine the victory, the skirmish being quickly ended. As they were Barbarians, so they demeaned themselves as insulting and tyrannizing conquerours ; and in that raging cruelty they were more implacable against the Gowne-men then others : for they were perswaded, that by their eloquence and mercenary tongues, that the *Romanes* did first invade their territories, and were the cause of that lamentable warre. *Varus* in that perplexed time, and slavery, was of the same minde as *Paulus Emilius* was of, at the great slaughter, the *Romanes* received by *Hannibal*, at the village *Canne*, and died the same death : for hee thought nothing more intolerable then the dominiering of the Barbarians, especially towards them that are towards the Law, nothing more cruell then miserably to dye in Bogges and woods : They cut off some of their
lips,

lips, some their hands cut off, one had his mouth stitched up, but first they plucked forth his tongue, which one of the Barbarians held in his hand, vociferating now at last, Thou viper leave thy hissing. It will bee expedient for you also to call to minde that same *Adrianus Aelius*, that insatiable gulfe of Bribes, and chiefe Embassadour of the *Romans*, whom *Mithridates*, with a great deale of contempt, made to bestride an Asses backe, and made him ride along for a May-game as farre as *Troy*, where hee gave in charge, that they should powre melted gold downe his throat. Secretly intimating thereby, that the *Romans* were too too much addicted to bribery, too eloquent with tongues of discord and debate. *Alexander Severus* the Emperour, the great Antagonist of flattering *Sycophants*, commanded *Turinus*, the Court Claw-backe, to be fastned to a stake in the Market-place, and to bee smothered with smoake, and the Cryer to cry out alowd, As hee sold, so he perisheth with smoake: to use also the words of *Antisthenes*, It is better to make the flattering Karkasses of Rooks, a prey for the Carrion Crowes, then the living should bee a prey for them. It would appeare an excellent experiment of your prudence, if you would deale by your selves, (who have beene such a pocky infection of the Common-wealth, and by your lying verdicts have diminished the publique peace) as *Philip King of Macedon* did once with two of his subjects, in whom no hope of amendment; hee made one to runne out of his Kingdome, and the other to drive him out, by which fact his Countrey was rid of both at once; both had a going forth, neither a returne. I leave the application to your selves, put you it in practise, runne rather then hang: Make haste to your Ring-leader *Finch*, hee hath taught you the way, the gates of the City stand open. Why doe you delay? had you rather be hang'd at home, then starve in a forraigne Countrey? Are you the unjust Stewards, that cannot dig and to begge you are ashamed? Take them Iaylor, pinion their false opinionated hands.

Brund. It is the part and property of every good man, rather to glory that I saved life when I might have cut them off, then to say, I have destroyed when I had power to preserve.

Manil. To commiserate the wicked, is to make miserable the good. Listen to your doom: As you have made the Lawes like unto Spiders webs, & as you have shipwrackt this flourishing Island with the turbulent stormes, and cragged Rockes of your pervert and wrested opinions, no place will bee granted you in these Dominions; make haste, make haste, (this your determinate Sentence) to

*Ireland make your arrivall and aboade there. For if you retaine your poyson, you cannot live long there, that Countrey will not nourish venomous beasts; but if you intend to change your manners, to make them candid with your haire in those Islands, by reason of the wholefome temperature of the aire, you may live long, unlesse the world shall be weary of you, and you of the world; that you shall thinke your case better to dye then to live; you may live so long, I say, by reason of the temperature of the aire, that you may redeeme all your lost and mispent houres and time. Our Sentence is irrevocable, not to bee revoked: therefore make no delay, prepare for your voyage, gable, askey, oares, anchors; the fatall censure of your Regiment, with this Character or Motto: *The Consuls censure, Hell for their hire.**

Judges. It is a hard censure in the winter of our age, and in winter to weigh Anchor.

Prim. No punishment grievous, where there is store of Companions.

Democ. Post, haste away without delay, let your returne be late and long.

*Remove the Rod, their old age lerne no more,
Let Justice take their place, and they the shore.*

Exeunt Judges.

Act the fourth.

Enter a Convent of lebeians.

Conventiclers. Speake out Father *Pinner*, speake out for the whole flocke: for you are the mouth and Oracle of all our *Conventiclers*.

Democ. Hah, hah, hah; O egregious flocke! O flocke of Asses! I would say, a swarme of Droanes, now hell hath opened her chops: Goe forth you perfidious generation of vipers; Hah, hah, hah.

Convent. Speake out father *Pinner*, speake out.

Pinner. Know all men by these presents (dearly beloved brethren and sisters) that there are three things especially to bee required of us, a betters of the truth; Compassionate for the blindness of the times, burning with the zeal of soules, and panting after the reformation of Religion.

Democ. This phanaticall reformer of Religion, makes my worship smile: Hah, hah, hah.

Pinner

Pinner. First, that we admit of no order in the Church. Secondly, that all Rites and ceremoniall Relicks, to wit, Priests Garments all sorts of musicke be abolished out of the Church, Lastly, that there be no set forme of prayer.

Herac. What a miserable headlesse Church these Dotards would make!

Democ. Be silent and heare, see and behold, how these notted and round heads with their pricke eares doe listen and stare on their predicating *Pinner*, and are amaz'd at his doctrine.

Pinner. But if it shall stand with your prudence, that wee admit degrees in the Church, wee would have these Lay Elders rule over us, for which dignity none more fit and able, then those venerable brethren of ours; Master Cobler, Master Meat-dresser, and Master Button-maker; (whom although *Greene* the Demicafter-maker did lately oppose, and easily overcame and conquered him with the efficacie of the word) they are men, in deed, and in truth, but meanly learned, but wonderfully inspired above all: wee will and require you, that you give speciall notice to *Francis Holyoake* the Dictionary-maker, that hee marke with the marke of the Beast, that Apocryphall word Bishop, and put amongst his obsolete words out of date, for a perpetuall remembrancer of the fact. As concerning the first Article of our complaint, that wee will have no order in our Church: so in our second Article, wee doe abhorre all Rites and Ceremonies: whatsoever savoureth of antiquity, we repute false and erroneous. All Sacerdoticall vestiments in the Clergie, and Lawne sleeves in the Bishops, wee reprobate and anathematize them: The Surplice, that Whore of Babylons smock, or a Gipsies frocke, besmeared and daub'd with their menstruous bawdry, wee doe utterly renounce; those Priests in their Surplices appeare to us like ghosts that rise out of their graves with their winding sheets on their backs. As concerning muscicall instruments, we have ever reputed them as Babylonian Timbrels, we cannot really love our onwe Quodlibets the twigges of generation, because they are called Instruments.

Democ. These men fitter for Bridewell, then to reforme Religion.

Pinner. As concerning the third Article of our complaint, wee will have no forme of Common-prayer, no not so much as the Lords Prayer, it doth diminish the confidence that ought to be had in the Spirit; therefore wee will have no Pastours, either praying or preaching, to come prepared; we will have them deliver

Mercurius Britannicus.

the word *ex tempore*, that they may shew forth the efficacy of the Spirit, wee doe much approve of *Turners* Creed, and his Glosse upon the Communion of Saints. And that to winde up all in a word, All new Doctrines we approve for our owne: all ancient, though confirmed with a thousand Councils and Synods, we reject.

Perd. Heare, O yee mad men, that old but witty Rhime, commonly chanted in the Island of *Britaine*.

T Ack tent to my Saw, my sonnes three,
Rob. Will. and Tavy,
Keepe well your Pater and your Ave;
And if you minde your Fathers Reed,
Stand close to your old Creed.
But for my daughter Gyllion,
I wad she were well bolted with a Bridle,
That leaves her warke, to play the Clarke,
And lets her wheele stand idle.
For it sawes not for the Ministers,
Farriers nor Furriers,
Coblers nor Botton-makers.
To descant on the Bible.

Chorus Conf. Away with these trifles: Men and Brethren, wee have given better attention to your complaints, then they demerited. As for Bishops, the naked and bloodlesse Title, wee must debate, wee meddle not with, and thinke it more expedient to cut off vices then offices, sins then Synods. Surcease at last, from all your doting surmizes, what is needfull to bee done, and tends to the peace of the Church, we will have a vigilant and provident care of it. In the meane time, if not beames, at least those motes

to bee plucked out of your sore eyes, they are devoyd of all

Charity, that love not the unitie of the Church. Get you home, follow your owne affaires, it behoves us

to have an eye to the Common-good
for Prince, People and
Countrey.

The Epilogue.

I T is determined by the *Aedils* the Masters of publicke Playes, that the next day (by *Joves* permission) the fift Act shall bee acted upon Tyber, I should say Tyburne, by a new society of *Abalmaites*.



To the Reader.

IF others set forth Editions under this Title, beleeve mee, they are meerly adulterous: This Edition is onely true and genuine; All other sordid and surreptitious.

Præludium.

Enter a Satyr following Palinurus.

Sat. Ho *Palinurus*, you, little Sayler, a word with you!

Pal. A word then *Satyr*; I pray detain me not, I can hardly stay: for it is impos'd upon me this day to speake the Prologue.

Sat. The Prologue, my little Lad, what hast thou doe with the Prologue? Make no more haste then good speed; be wary in time. Read, but understand this Libell which we found to day, dropt neer unto the Kings-Bench over Thames, before thou act the Prologue.

Palinurus reads the Paper.

Astræa furens.

IVdges who do buy their state,
Our bad Cookes doe imitate;
If they their Circuits to defray,
Lick not their fingers by the way,
To purchase favour, if they'r bent,
They will disturb each element:
And in a ship will try the Seas,
Ballacn'd with their Consciences.
Though their age expect a Grave,
Writs of Ease they will not have.

If *Sinons Arts* be not away,
Sion will not rule the day.

Pal. But what is this to our ship?


Sar. Very much to the wracking of your ship. You should act another part, if the just Sentence of the Iudges were executed.

Pal. This is little to us: The whole world is turned Player: Why then may not we act the part of a Judge?

Sar. But thou wilt be whipt if they rise againe.

Pal. I rather feare that they will be whipt when they rise. —
But pray with-hold mee no longer, the musicke hath sounded the last, and the Auditors expect the Prologue.

Sar. Goe on with good speed: I in the mean while will spend an houre in this Alley so beset with Bayes. For a sandy walke is more acceptable to me then the pit of a stage: The theatre of a walk then the likenesse of a Theatre; the walke of a Theatre then the Theatre of a walke.



The Prologue.

YOn'r welcome all who ever here will please,
To be before our Iudges witnesses;
How many Iudges causes doe depend,
Which from grave Iudges must expect an end?
Some are enforc'd to flye their Countreyes bound;
Others with waves at home are almost drown'd.
This trembles under the Black-Rod; and Hse
Doth feare his Fate from the Gregorian Tree.
All things are turn'd preposterous; which are
The subje&t of our mournfull Theatre.

But if your Countreys Fathers you will see,
Wee shall shew Consuls of true piety,
Of mindes unstain'd, of bright Astræa's race,
Of noble birth, of specious ranke and Grace.
These are the Men that make each publick Law,
That cherish good men, keep the bad in awe:
These are our Smyrna's Hero's, and the same
Sounes of her womb, Restorers of her fame.

Pray sit, and see how joy and griefe are joynd,
Tears mixt with jests, & wit with mirth combin'd
Of clearer minds the chaste delight and sport,
The shining Riches of th' Hamonian Port.

Pray sit, and with your welcome looks prefer
Our new-come well-come English Messenger.

